

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See Instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Butler House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 4484 West Pine Boulevard not for publication

city, town St. Louis, vicinity of congressional district

state Missouri code 29 county City of St. Louis code 510

3. Classification

| Category  | Ownership                                   | Status   | Present Use  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <input type="checkbox"/> public             | <input type="checkbox"/> occupied                    | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture                             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied                  | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <input type="checkbox"/> both               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                   | <b>Accessible</b>                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <input type="checkbox"/> in process         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted  | <input type="checkbox"/> government                              |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered   | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted           | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial                              |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A                | <input type="checkbox"/> no                          | <input type="checkbox"/> military                                |
|   |   |  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: conversion to offices |

4. Owner of Property

name Richard O. Howe, c/o Overlock Howe Consulting Group, Inc.

street & number 915 Olive Street

city, town St. Louis, vicinity of state MO 63101

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Louis City Hall

street & number Tucker Boulevard at Market Street

city, town St. Louis, state MO 63101

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Architectural Survey Map of Washington University Medical Center Area has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date December 1981  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc. 705 Chestnut Street, #1217

city, town St. Louis, state MO 63101

Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc., 1982.

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Butler House, St. Louis, MO

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

Missouri State Historical Survey  
Historic Preservation Program  
February 1982  
Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
P. O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

## Item #9, Bibliography

Dacus, J. A., and Buel, James W. A Tour of St. Louis. St. Louis: Western Publishing Co., 1878.

Glimpses of the Past (Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis) 4 (1937): 166-167.

Heimann, Robert K. Tobacco and Americans. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1960.

Hyde, William, and Conard, Howard L., eds. Encyclopedia of the History of St. Louis. 4 Vols. New York: The Southern History Co., 1899.

Leonard, John W. Book of St. Louisans. St. Louis: St. Louis Republic, 1906.

McConachie, Alexander Scott. "The 'Big Cinch': A Business Elite in the Life of a City, St. Louis, 1895-1915." PhD. dissertation, Washington University, St. Louis, MO, 1976.

Primm, James Neal. Lion of the Valley: St. Louis, Missouri. Boulder, CO: Pruett Publishing Co., 1981.

Spectator (St. Louis), 16 March 1889.

Yeakle, M. M. The City of St. Louis of Today. St. Louis: J. Osmun Yeakle & Co., 1889.

## Item #11, Form Prepared By

2. James M. Denny, Section Chief, Survey-Registration  
and State Contact Person  
Department of Natural Resources  
Historic Preservation Program  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City  
May, 1982  
314/751-4096  
Missouri 65102

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved      date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

4484 West Pine is a three story, turreted, brick house built in 1892 for a prominent St. Louis tobacco manufacturer. It is distinguished on the exterior for its effective use of ornamental detailing in a variety of textures and materials, and on the interior for finely crafted millwork in first floor rooms. The house is currently undergoing careful restoration for adaptive re-use as offices.

A picturesque profile is established on the West Pine facade by a three story tower with a conical slate roof, a second story turret on the east corner and a slender dormer with a steeply pitched, flared pediment. (Photo #1) The three story tower displays an unusually rich variety of textures as it builds upwards from a base combining both smooth pink and rock-faced white granite, to alternating bands of rusticated brick, smooth rose sandstone sills and rock-faced sandstone lintels. A rose sandstone colonnade frames third story windows. Adjacent to the west side of the tower is a rock-faced sandstone chimney which also lends vertical emphasis to the facade. Windows on the West Pine facade and on the east and west elevations are framed with edge roll moldings of brick; two, second story facade windows employ sandstone lintels embellished with garlands; windows on the east and west elevations have rock-faced sandstone lintels while the south (rear) elevation employs segmental brick arches.

The entrance displays an impressive stepped sandstone lintel (with foliated ornament in the center) supported by a rose, polished granite column on the west side and a sandstone column on the east; both columns have sandstone capitals with Byzantine-like designs. Pink granite steps lead to a recessed porch which is inlaid with a polychrome floor patterned with small mosaic tiles. A porte cochere extends west from the porch. Embossed metal ornament is introduced on the facade in the east corner turret, the dormer pediment and in a dentilled cornice which wraps around the house. The metal base of the turret and part of the dentilled cornice have been removed for restoration.

An enclosed sun porch projecting from the east elevation was added sometime after 1904. In 1944, a cement block garage having no architectural significance was built on the east side of the sun porch; the garage will be removed by the present owner. (The garage is partially visible in the far left of Photo #1.)

Notable architectural features on the interior are confined to first story rooms. The focus of the expansive entrance hall is an elaborate oak staircase vigorously detailed with a massive newel and spiral balusters. (Photo #2) Paneled oak is also used for a wainscot and ceiling in the hall. A large, rectangular art glass window (now boarded for protection during restoration) is installed on the stair landing. Accenting the west wall of the hall is a brick fireplace framed by a wide arch springing from garlanded capitals.

The stair hall opens to an informal grouping of other rooms on the first floor. Oak paneled wainscoting is continued in the dining room to the east of the hall, while two rooms which are north of the hall employ ornamental millwork which is

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lighter in scale and finished in a different wood. A drawing room at the northeast corner of the house features a classically detailed wooden fireplace mantel and jambs and a bay window framed by wooden fluted pilasters and cornice. Similar millwork is also found on the doorways and windows of the "tower" room north of the hall. Second and third story rooms have no significant features.

Behind the main house stands a brick carriage house probably built in 1907 from plans of architects Knell and Baker. (A building permit was issued to Butler, 15 April 1907, for an "addition" to the house costing \$3,000.) (Photo #3) The slate, pitched roof is punctuated with a slate clad dormer and a brick gable on the facade (north elevation); the door in the gable apparently once opened to a porch now removed. Two, first story doors are projected from the wall by stepped brick jambs.

## 8. Significance

| Period  | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below    |   |   |  |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric          | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric  | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning     | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499            | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic     | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation           | <input type="checkbox"/> law                    | <input type="checkbox"/> science         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599            | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> economics              | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education   | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input type="checkbox"/> social/         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce     | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> theater         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-     | <input type="checkbox"/> communications          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry    | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation  |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

**Specific dates** 1892 **Builder/Architect** Albert Knell

### Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

4484 West Pine Boulevard is the most distinguished house remaining in what was once a prestigious nineteenth century neighborhood located in St. Louis' Central West End. Constructed in 1892, the house was designed by architect Albert Knell for a prominent St. Louis tobacco manufacturer, James Gay Butler.

The construction of the Butler house appeared in the opening years of development of one of St. Louis' most fashionable residential areas, the Central West End. Thirty years earlier the Butler parcel had been part of a large 412 acre tract of unimproved land about four miles west of the city center. The tract had been acquired in the early nineteenth century by Peter Lindell (1776-1861), a pioneer merchant who came to St. Louis from Maryland in 1811.<sup>1</sup> Following Lindell's death in 1861, the tract was surveyed and divided among his heirs (ten nieces and nephews) and named, "Peter Lindell's 2nd Addition"; it was bounded on the east by Grand Avenue, on the west by Kingshighway, on the north by Olive Street and on the south by Duncan Avenue. Lindell's total estate (including downtown property) was considered at the time the largest in all of St. Louis.<sup>2</sup>

Although in 1875 Lindell's tract was still virtually uninhabited, the City's acquisition in that year of Forest Park on the western boundary of the Addition was an important stimulus for real estate activity around the Park:

Possessing natural advantages offered by no other park in the United States, it was readily foreseen that landed property must largely increase in value. When its grand drives are perfected, its boulevards completed for pedestrians, and its avenues supplied sufficiently with seats and points of rest, this must become by far the most attractive point for first-class residences, and the cost, as in the case of Central Park, New York, will be more than covered by the enhanced value of lands for building purposes, and consequently a much larger revenue from taxation.<sup>3</sup>

The prediction proved correct, for by 1887 land east of the Park which had been selling for \$10 to \$15 per front foot in 1863 was bringing \$100 per front foot, and the Park was "attracting about it a large number of costly family residences."<sup>4</sup>

In 1888, a portion of the inheritance of Mary D. Patchin (Peter Lindell's niece) was opened as the Patchin Subdivision of Block 44 of Lindell's 2nd Addition; its boundaries are the present-day City Block 3901 in which the Butler house stands only two blocks east of Forest Park. Escalating real estate prices of the Central West End were also reflected in land values in the Patchin Subdivision: in 1862, the nearly ten and one-half acres of Mary Patchin's Block were valued at \$15,064; when Butler purchased his lot in 1892 the cost for eighty-seven front feet on only

(11/78)

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lot 11 amounted to \$9,300. During the 1890s lots were rapidly sold and built upon, and by 1904 both sides of the 4400 block of West Pine were filled in with large, single-family houses.

Butler's building permit, dated June 11, 1892, was the second issued in the Patchin Subdivision and it recorded the highest cost of all of the houses in the block, an estimated \$25,000. Only one other house approached Butler's cost, the \$20,000 home built in 1892 for the President of Desnoyer Shoe Co., Jerome B. Desnoyer, at 4464 West Pine (demolished). Both the Desnoyer and the Butler houses were designed by Canadian-born architect Albert Knell. Trained in Zurich and Stuttgart, Knell established practice in St. Louis in 1884 and later formed a partnership with architect Henry Isaacs. Knell received commissions for other Central West End houses including one for W.W. Culver, President of Wrought Iron Range Co., at 39 Portland Place, and for commercial and institutional buildings such as Zion Lutheran Church, Desnoyers Shoe Factory, Wrought Iron Range Co. and Culver Military Academy in Culver, Indiana.

The style of the Butler house, known at the time as Queen Anne, had prompted the St. Louis Spectator in 1889 to offer grateful words of praise for its growing popularity, particularly in the western suburbs:

Several years ago, when every house in St. Louis was so like another that people could scarcely tell their own home from their neighbor's there was no incentive to build...They were all straight up and down three-story stone fronts, with narrow halls, double parlors and dining rooms...That period is past and gone. The Queen Anne period is revived and since there are few such dwellings for rent, one must needs build.<sup>5</sup>

The Spectator also described in some detail the interior of one notable Queen Anne house in the 3800 block of West Pine (demolished). Several features of this house are also found in the Butler house, including a spacious oak-paneled entrance hall with a large fireplace and an impressive stairway with a balcony-landing lit by a stained glass window.

By the time that James Gay Butler built his West Pine home, he was already well-established as a prominent tobacco manufacturer. Born in Michican in 1840, the son of a United States Army general, Butler left the University of Michigan to join the Union forces in 1861. He rose to the rank of Major while fighting battles in Tennessee, Missouri and Arkansas. After the War, Butler settled in St. Louis in 1866 and engaged in the manufacture of tobacco.<sup>6</sup> St. Louis, by 1867, was the world leader in the production of fine-cut and plug tobacco, the latter a technique perfected by Missouri growers. Butler's company eventually grew to rank among the nation's top ten manufacturers of plug tobacco,<sup>7</sup> and by 1902 he was on the millionaires list of the World Almanac. After the 1904 consolidation of much of the tobacco industry as the American Tobacco Company, Butler served as a director

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Butler House, St. Louis, MO

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of that company and was a large stockholder. In 1912, he founded the Bank of St. Louis, which grew into one of St. Louis' larger banks.<sup>8</sup>

Three years after Butler's death in 1916, the house was sold to Mrs. Grace Cain (wife of Eugene Miltenberger Cain) who lived there until about 1935. During the 1920s, the character of the neighborhood began to change somewhat when a single family house east of the Butler house was demolished and replaced with a multi-family unit; across the street on the north side of West Pine several houses were razed for the construction of an eight story apartment building in 1926 and a sixteen story residential hotel in 1928.

In the 1950s, the Butler house was occupied as a rooming house until the International Institute purchased it in December 1956, for use as an educational facility and offices. Originally established by the St. Louis YMCA in 1919 to assist immigrants, the Institute has continued its work with problems of immigrants and refugees in the St. Louis area.

The most radical disturbance to the block occurred during the 1960 when twelve houses were razed on the south side of West Pine for the construction of apartment buildings; only five of the original eighteen houses were left standing. The Butler house today is flanked on the east by a twenty-four story apartment building (1964) and on the west by a ten story building (1970). The renovation of the Butler house for office space by the present owner will preserve a significant Victorian house.

FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>William Hyde and Howard L. Conard, eds., Encyclopedia of the History of St. Louis, 4 vols. (New York: The Southern History Co., 1899), 3:1287. About 1824, after Lindell became successfully established as the proprietor of a large general store in St. Louis, he began investing his fortune extensively in real estate. He was also an incorporator of the Missouri Insurance Co. and a director of the Branch Bank of the United States.

<sup>2</sup>The estate comprised about thirty-five city blocks and 845 suburban acres valued at nearly three million dollars; the partition of the estate took over a year at an expense of \$16,091. Glimpses of the Past (Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis) 4 (1937): 166-167.

<sup>3</sup>J. A. Dacus and James W. Buel, A Tour of St. Louis (St. Louis: Western Publishing Co., 1878), p. 48.

<sup>4</sup>M. M. Yeakle, The City of St. Louis of Today (St. Louis: J. Osmon Yeakle & Co., 1889), p. 120.

<sup>5</sup>Spectator (St. Louis), 16 March 1889, p. 477.

<sup>6</sup>John W. Leonard, ed., Book of St. Louisans (St. Louis: St. Louis Republic, 1906), pp. 97-98.

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<sup>7</sup>Robert W. Heimann, Tobacco and Americans (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1960), p. 138.

<sup>8</sup>Alexander Scott McConachie, "The 'Big Cinch': A Business Elite in the Life of a City, St. Louis, 1895-1915" (PhD. Dissertation, Washington University, St. Louis, MO, 1976), pp. 11-12

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acresage of nominated property approx. .5 acres

Quadrangle name Clayton, MO

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A 

|      |   |         |   |   |   |          |    |   |    |   |    |   |    |    |
|------|---|---------|---|---|---|----------|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|----|
| 1    | 5 | 7       | 3 | 8 | 6 | 8        | 10 | 4 | 12 | 8 | 10 | 2 | 10 | 10 |
| Zone |   | Easting |   |   |   | Northing |    |   |    |   |    |   |    |    |

B 

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| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

C 

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| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

D 

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| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

E 

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F 

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| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

G 

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|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
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| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

H 

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| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The Butler House is located in City Block 3901 in Block 44, Peter Lindell's 2nd Addition, west 12'6" of lot 10, east 87' of lot 11 of Pachin's subdivision, fronting 99'6" along the south line of West Pine Boulevard by depth southwardly of 213' 2 1/4" to alley. List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By © Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc., 1982.

name/title Mary M. Stirtz, Research Associate

organization Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc. date 3 February 1982

street & number 706 Chestnut Street, #1217 telephone (314) 421-6474

city or town St. Louis, state MO 63101

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Director, Department of Natural Resources and  
title State Historic Preservation Officer date

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

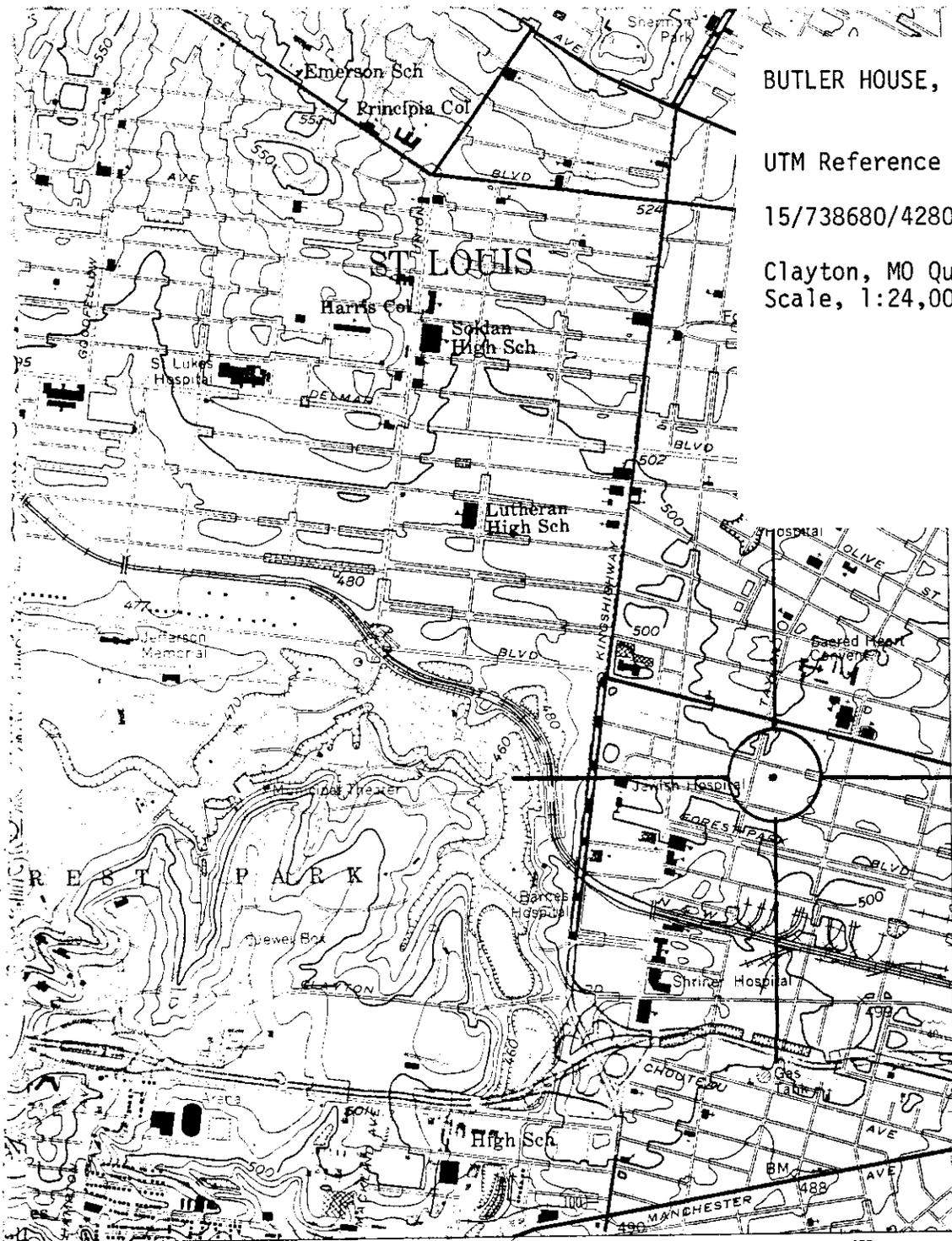
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



BUTLER HOUSE, St. Louis, MO

UTM Reference Points

15/738680/4280210

Clayton, MO Quadrangle

Scale, 1:24,000

736

737

MANCHESTER 14 MI.

INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 1975

739000m.E

38°37'30"

90°15'

(CAHOKIA)  
2961 11 SW

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty Light-duty
- Medium-duty Unimproved dirt

- Interstate Route
- U. S. Route
- State Route



CLAYTON, MO.  
N3837.5—W9015/7.5

1954

BUTLER HOUSE, St. Louis, MO  
4484 West Pine Boulevard

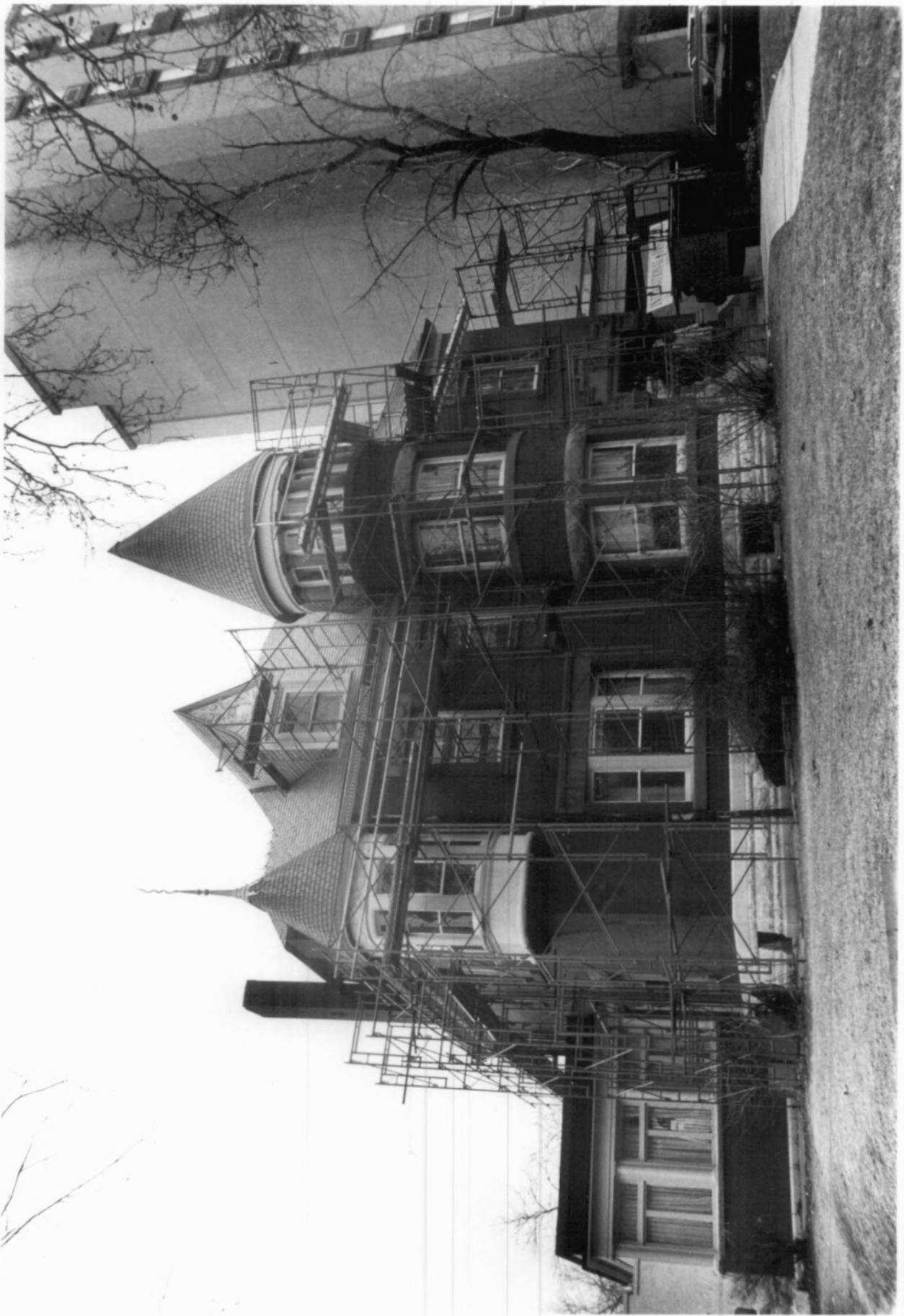
#1 of 3 North (principal) and  
east elevations.

Photographer: Mary M. Stiritz

Date: January 1982

Negative: Landmarks Association  
of St. Louis, Inc.

Camera facing west.



BUTLER HOUSE, St. Louis, MO  
4484 West Pine Boulevard

#2 of 3 Interior, view of  
stair hall.

Photographer: Mary M. Stiritz  
Date: January 1982  
Negative: Landmarks Association  
of St. Louis, Inc.

Camera facing west.



BUTLER HOUSE, St. Louis, MO  
4484 West Pine Boulevard

#3 of 3 Carriage house, north  
elevation.

Photographer: Mary M. Stirtz  
Date: January 1982  
Negative: Landmarks Association  
of St. Louis, Inc.

Camera facing south.

